• COLORADO RIVER •

# AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XIV JULY 1947 NUMBER 7

## Move Launched in Congress to Have Supreme Court Decision Fix Water Rights

Following twenty-five years of controversy as to the respective water rights on the Colorado River of the Lower Basin states, official steps were taken in July to have these rights determined and made permanently binding through a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. The states directly affected are California, Arizona and Nevada, and, in addition, small portions of Utah and New Mexico which are

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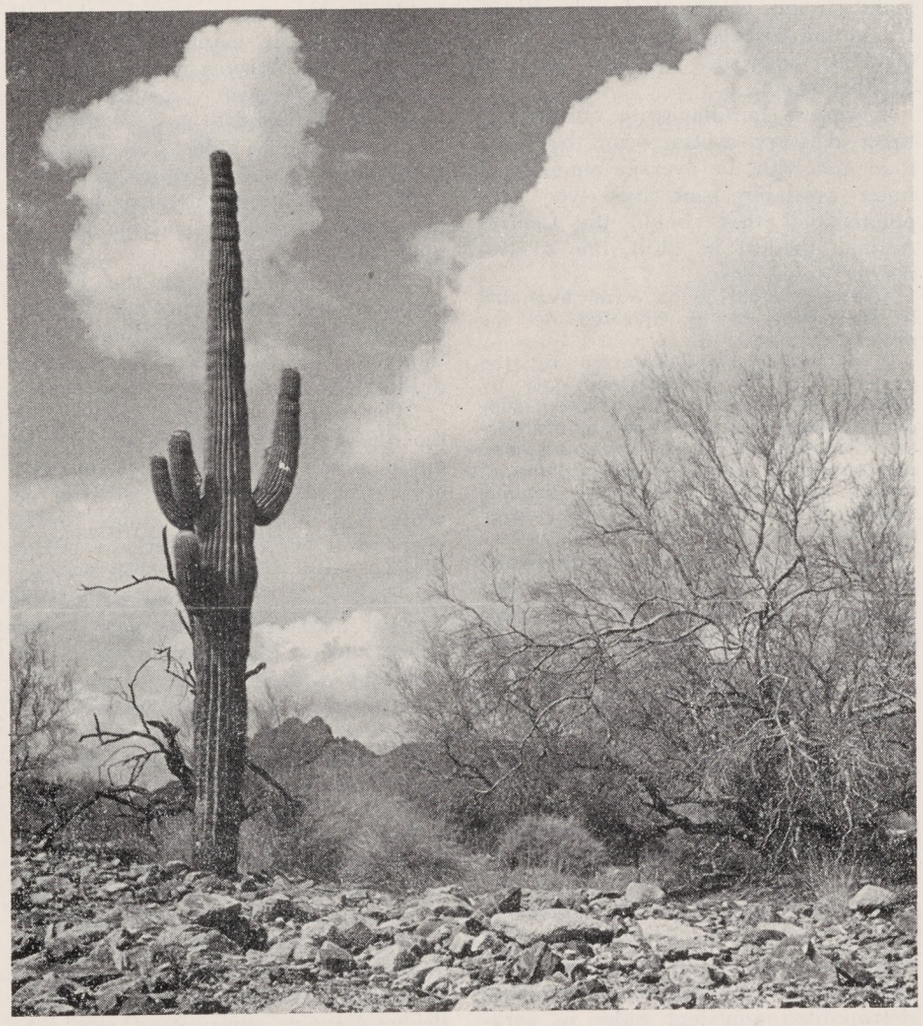

This is another Paul Winn camera study of life on the desert along the Metropolitan aqueduct. The imposing saguaro specimen stands among a number of others in the rugged country between Gene and Copper Basin reservoirs, a few miles west of the Intake.

## July Water Sales Break All Records

A new record for the delivery of softened and filtered Colorado River water to constitutent areas was established by the District during the month of July.

The maximum daily delivery occurred on July 29, when an average of 206 cubic feet per second was being delivered to meet the greatly increased requirements of District cities, as compared to a maximum daily delivery averaging 160 cubic feet per second for July of 1946. This is an increase of 29 per cent.

For the entire month of July of this year the average daily delivery of Colorado River water amounted to 166 cubic feet per second as compared to an average daily delivery in July 1946 of 144.5 cubic feet per second. This is an increase of about 15 per cent.

The maximum hourly delivery of aqueduct water to District cities and areas during July also set up an all-time high. For a short time on July 29 these water deliveries from the aqueduct totaled 316 cubic feet per second. It is significant that the minimum daily delivery, which amounted to 145 cubic feet per second for this July, was as great as the maximum daily average for the preceding month of June.

The maximum water deliveries by the aqueduct during July greatly exceeded the rated capacity of 155 second feet of the softening and filtration plant. The additional amounts were made available, in part, by drawing upon the Orange County and Palo Verde reservoirs which store softened and filtered water and are used to meet peak demands and to regulate the water flow in distribution lines.

The marked jump in the demand for Metropolitan aqueduct water from the cities and areas in the District was caused in some measure by the hot weather that characterized a number

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# July Water Sales

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of days in July. But the point in this connection is that when increased water demands now occur in District cities they find it possible to meet such demands only from the Metropolitan aqueduct.

During July all constituent areas in the District except San Marino and the San Diego County Water Authority were taking water from the aqueduct. In the case of the Authority, its failure to take water was due only to the fact that the line that will deliver Colorado River water from the Metropolitan aqueduct to the San Diego area has not yet been completed and placed in operation.

City Manager Fred Rhodes of San Diego, in a statement issued the latter part of July, said that the new line connecting the Authority areas with the Metropolitan aqueduct is scheduled to be ready to carry water late this fall. For this reason, he stated, San Diego is drawing down its local reservoirs practically to the empty line, since an abundant new water supply from the Metropolitan aqueduct is assured within a few months. Were this not the case, he stated, it would have been necessary to place San Diego water users on strict water rations throughout the summer season.

The importance of the Colorado River water supply to the maintenance of present development within the District areas is revealed by the extent to which this supplemental water is now being used by these communities. Two District cities, Santa Monica and Santa Ana, take practically 100 per cent of their water from the Metropolitan aqueduct. The same is true of Laguna Beach, which is a part of the Coastal Municipal Water District, a constituent area of the Metropolitan Water District.

For the past twelve months Pasadena has been obtaining better than 50 per cent of its water from the aqueduct; Beverly Hills about 50 per cent, and Long Beach more than 33 per cent.

Other District cities that are taking Metropolitan aqueduct water in varying amounts are Glendale, Burbank, Los Angeles, Compton, Torrance, Anaheim, and Fullerton.

# Projects Opposed Pending Court Action

Urgent need for an early adjudication of the Colorado River water rights of Arizona and California was made evident this year when the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation released a voluminous report which listed 134 proposed new projects on the river. At the same time officials of the Reclamation Bureau stated that should all of these proposed projects be authorized and built, they, together with operating projects, would call for the diversion of 25 per cent more water than actually is available in the stream.

Following closely upon the heels of this report, bills were introduced in the Senate and the House that would authorize the construction of the so-called Central Arizona Project. This is an irrigation project that would be built to divert, it is estimated, 1,200,000 acre feet of water annually from the main stream of the Colorado River. Its initial cost is estimated at $600,000,000 and its ultimate cost at $1,200,000,000.

Engineers familiar with outstanding water delivery contracts on the Colorado and with the average amounts of water available from the river have pointed out that should the Central Arizona Project be built, one of two results would ensue.

1. There would be no water available in the river to be diverted by the project.
2. If water were diverted by the project it would be obtained only by raiding the Colorado River water supplies already contracted for by California communities that have assumed obligations of hundreds of millions of dollars in building irrigation systems, aqueducts, and power lines from Hoover Dam.

Before any further new water diversion projects are authorized on the lower Colorado River, California's representatives point out, the firm water rights on the river of Arizona and California ought to be determined by a decision of the U. S. Supreme Court.

Hearings on the Central Arizona Project bill (S.1175) were conducted in June and July before a subcommittee of the Senate Public Lands Committee. The bill was still in committee when Congress adjourned the latter part of July. One of those who appeared before the subcommittee to testify against the proposed project was Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada. In his analysis of the project he stated, in part:

"The project would consist primarily of the Bridge Canyon Dam on the Colorado River above Boulder Dam, and an aqueduct to transport Colorado River water to Central Arizona, through tunnels over 80 miles long, bypassing Boulder Dam.

"Initially, however, instead of building these tunnels, a branch or alternate aqueduct would be built from Parker Dam, lifting the water by pumping nearly a thousand feet, to join the ultimate Bridge Canyon aqueduct route at a junction point part way to the Phoenix area, and using about a third of the Bridge Canyon power. The remaining two-thirds would be sold. The potential customers are supposed to be in California, Nevada and Arizona.

"Under the plan set up by the bill, no part of the capital cost will be repaid by the Arizona irrigators. Either the Federal Treasury, or the power users, are expected to pay for all of it. The water will be sold to the irrigators at $4.50 per acre-foot, which, according to the Reclamation Bureau, is less than the cost of operation and maintenance alone.

"The power users or the Federal taxpayers will have to provide not only the 600 million to one billion of capital costs, but also over three million dollars per year in operating expense.

"The scheme does not contemplate that the Treasury will get any interest on its power investment. The amortization period is estimated at over 80 years. The lost interest alone, for 80 years at 2 per cent, is over a billion dollars, even if the capital is recovered; and during the same period the Federal taxpayers or the power users would have to carry the burden of over a quarter billion dollars of operating expense that the water users cannot pay.

"Abundant cheap power is essential to Nevada. Bridge Canyon power site, properly developed, can be an asset to Nevada and the other inter-mountain areas within transmission distance. But as proposed in this bill, a million and a quarter acre-feet would ultimately bypass Boulder and Davis Dams, reducing the power Nevada is entitled to at such projects. More important, Bridge Canyon power itself would be loaded with over three hundred million dollars of subsidy to an Arizona irrigation project."

## Supreme Court

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within the Lower Basin area.

On July 8, Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada introduced Joint Resolution 145, which, upon its adoption by Congress and approval by the President would direct the Attorney General of the United States to commence a suit in the Supreme Court to determine the respective water rights on the Colorado River of the Lower Basin states. Joining with Senator McCarran in sponsoring the joint resolution were Senator George W. Malone of Nevada and Senators Sheridan Downey and William F. Knowland of California.

Joint resolutions to accomplish the same purpose as that sought by the McCarran measure were introduced in the House of Representatives by several California Congressmen, including Representatives Bertrand W. Gearhart, Norris Poulson, Carl Hinshaw, Harry R. Sheppard and John Phillips.

In the Senate, at the insistence of Senator Carl Hayden of Arizona and Senator Carl A. Hatch of New Mexico, the joint resolution was voted to be referred to the Public Lands Committee. In the House the measure was referred to the Judiciary Committee. It is assumed that hearings on the joint resolution will be started in the two committees when Congress assembles in January, 1948.

Here is the text of S. J. Res. 145 as introduced by Senator Pat McCarran:

"JOINT RESOLUTION to authorize commencement of an action by the United States to determine interstate water rights in the Colorado River.

"Whereas the development of projects for the use of water in the Lower Colorado River Basin is being hampered by reason of long-standing controversies among the States in said basin as to the meaning and effect of the Colorado River compact, the Boulder Canyon Project Act, the Boulder Canyon Adjustment Act, the California Limitation Act (Stats. Cal. 1929, ch. 16), various contracts executed by the Secretary of the Interior with States, public agencies and others in the Lower Basin of the Colorado River, and other documents and as to various engineering, economic, and other facts: Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purpose of avoiding a multiplicity of actions and expediting the development of the Colorado River Basin, the Attorney General is hereby directed to commence in the Supreme Court of the United States of America, against the States of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah, and such other parties as may be necessary or proper to a determination, a suit or action in the nature of interpleader, and therein require the parties to assert and have determined their claims and rights to the use of waters of the Colorado River system available for use in the Lower Colorado River Basin."

A move to bring about a determination of the water rights of Arizona and California on the Colorado River was urged by Governor Earl Warren of California and by the Colorado River Board of California. It is being supported by the six public water and power agencies in Southern California which have power and water rights and contracts on the river. These include The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Strongly supporting the stand taken by the Governor and these official bodies is the recently organized Colorado River Association, headed by Preston Hotchkis. The latter organization is composed of several hundred representative men and women from every part of Southern California.

Early this year Governor Warren addresed letters to Governor Vail Pittman of Nevada and Governor Sidney P. Osborn of Arizona in which he urged that the respective water rights on the Colorado River of the three states be settled in one of three ways: First, by negotiations carried on between the three states; second, if the first plan were not approved, by arbitration; third, if the first two plans were rejected, by a suit in the Supreme Court.

Governor Pittman replied that he would be willing to go along on either of the first two plans, but that in the light of history he felt sure that Arizona would not agree to any of the plans; therefore, he favored a Supreme Court adjudication of the water rights. Governor Osborn replied that it was the position of Arizona that the water rights of the three states were now fixed—and fixed in accordance with Arizona's interpretations of the Colorado River Compact and other associated documents. Therefore, he could not support any of the three suggested plans, he indicated.

Refusal of Arizona to agree to a settlement of conflicting water rights claims by either negotiation or by arbitration left to California only one other method—a Supreme Court determination.

## For the RECORD

**(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds filed July 1947 and covering District operations for June 1947.)**

*Construction*—For the softening and filtration plant expansion, specifications were prepared for special valves for zeolite softener rinse rate control, and conferences were held regarding necessary building permits and concerning plans for spur track extensions at the plant.

The service connection for the City of Brea was placed in service and work was substantially completed on two additional connections for the City of Torrance and one for the City of Anaheim.

*Hoover Dam*—Transmission of District unused energy to the Southern California Edison Company at Hayfield was continued, peak demand being 60,000 kw. Total energy delivered to the District system for the Edison Company was 25,179,423 kwhr. Energy delivered to Basic Magnesium totaled 23,702,625 kwhr., with a peak demand of 37,665 kw. Usable storage in Lake Mead on June 30 was 20,522,000 acre feet, with the water elevation at 1169.64 feet, a rise of 17.71 feet. The average discharge of the Colorado at Hoover Dam in June was 15,732 cfs. compared with 15,646 in May.

*Parker Dam*—The water surface in Lake Havasu was at or slightly below full reservoir level throughout the month. Average discharge of the Colorado at Parker Dam was 14,397 cfs compared with 14,774 in May. Energy delivered to the Parker system was 22,339,440 kwhr. and received from Parker 40,000 kwhr.

*Pumping*—System pumping using two pumps was carried on continuously.

*Distribution System*—On June 30 water level in Lake Mathews had risen to elevation 1349.44 feet and the available water in storage to 89,012 acre feet, a gain for the month of 14,922 acre feet. At the softening and filtration plant Colorado River water was softened from an average hardness of 346 ppm to 126 ppm. Inflow to the plant varied from 100 to 145 cfs and averged 116.5 compared with 116.1 in May.

*Purchasing*—There were 263 purchase orders and 5 purchase agreements issued in June in the total amount of approximately $42,270.00.

# NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Here we have Mr. and Mrs. Loyal D. Reed. Mrs. Reed qualifies as a full-fledged aqueducter by reason of the fact that she was Telephone Operator at Eagle Mountain camp from November 1943 until June 1947. Loyal took his first job with the District as Truck Driver at Morongo camp in February 1934. With a few short interruptions he has been on the aqueduct ever since, and for the past four years has been Station Machinist at Eagle.

Mr. and Mrs. Lars Christiansen are celebrating their new status as grandparents. To their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mosier, there was born on July 27 a baby girl who has been named Nancy Carol. She arrived at the Hollywood Hospital and weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces. Lars is Division Foreman on the Distribution System. He did not state his age but contended nonetheless that he is about the youngest Grandpa in the District organization. Does anyone want to contest that claim?

* * *

Lt. Col. Lynn D. Smith, U.S.A. is now stationed with the United States Army in Tokyo, Japan. He is attached to G-3 at General Headquarters. Colonel Smith saw much combat service in the North and Central Pacific during the war, and later was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel in the regular establishment.

* * *

Word comes that Joe G. Brown and his wife, Blanche Brown, are now residing in Camptonville, California. Joe was with the District as Inspector and Master Mechanic from 1933 to 1943. Blanche was employed as Typist, General Clerk and Senior Stenographer at Banning, in Purchasing, and at the Softening and Filtration Plant from 1931 until 1945.

With the annual vacation season well under way, July found a number of aqueducters back at their jobs with wondrous tales of lands far away, but all "glad to be back in Southern California."

In the June issue of the NEWS there appeared a very fine photo of Silas E. Worthington, Maintenance Man at Lake Mathews. Only trouble was that it was captioned as a picture of George H. Pettigrew, Utility Man on the Distribution Division. It is hoped that a photo of Pettigrew will appear in an early issue of the NEWS.

* * *

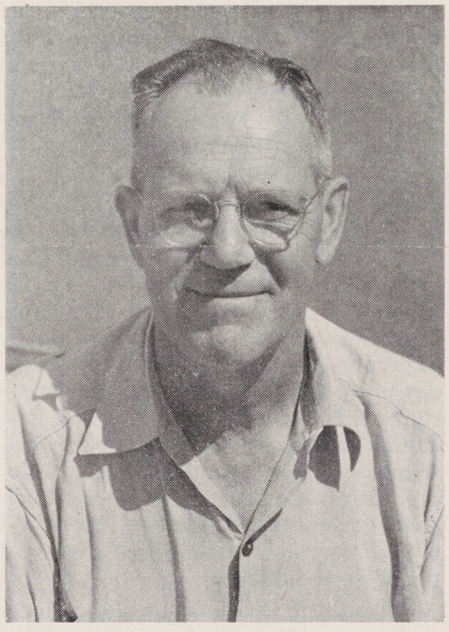
Callers at the District's Los Angeles office in July were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stephens, Jr. Dick was the District's Office Engineer at the Banning field headquarters during aqueduct construction days, and is now with the Arundel Corp., Baltimore, Md.

* * *

Now stationed in Osaka, Japan, is Major Bruce A. Crayne, U.S.A. He is in charge of construction and repair work on Army buildings. From 1936 to 1939 he was engaged in engineering work in the District's Electrical and Mechanical Division.

* * *

The MWD employees picnic held Sunday, July 13, at the San Dimas Canyon Park is reported to have been a grand success. There were about 80 present, those attending being largely the families of employees at the Softening and Filtration Plant and on the Distribution system.



Here are two aqueducters who are stationed at Eagle Mountain pumping plant. Norman I. Prosser, (left) is Station Electrician, and a veteran on the big water line. He started back there in June 1933 as Electrical Foreman at Berdoo camp on the Coachella Division. Walter I. Bond (right) is Utility Man. He came on the job in December 1943.